

SAVED FROM THEATRE PANIC.

PROCTOR'S AUDIENCE OF 1,700 WAS OUT IN 6 MINUTES.

Half the Building Afire and Everything to Encourage a Stampede Like That in Chicago, but a Wonderful Cap Presented It—Just One Fireman Hurt.

The second act of "A Rose o' Plymouth Town" was on in Proctor's 128th Street Theatre at 9:15 o'clock last night. The stage showed the porch and garden of Miles Standish, the captain of Plymouth. Seventeen hundred persons were in the theatre, their attention all on the play.

A spiral of smoke curled slowly up from a window of the fifth floor of the other half of the theatre building, used for offices and the storage of scenery. A red tongue of flame licked out. In three seconds more the upper floors were roaring with fire. The fireman, Thomas S. Teven, of the East 128th station, standing on the corner of 128th street and Park avenue, talking with a friend, glanced east along 128th street toward Lexington avenue. He was about to turn away when he saw the thin trail of smoke twisting out of that window in the theatre building. He started forward on the run, and as he did the smoke was followed by a sheet of flame that ran all along the top floor of the building.

Half way down the block were Detective Sergeants Joseph Meehan and Shea. Teven grabbed them.

"Good God!" said Teven to him, "Proctor's Theatre's afire and the house is packed like a box of sardines. Meehan, you turn in an alarm; Shea, you telephone for Capt. McNally to get here quick with all the men he can pick up."

Meehan and Shea sprinted for telephones. Teven ran across the street into the theatre lobby. There Manager H. Brunelle of the theatre was calmly smoking a cigar. The cop caught him and dragged him into the box office. The cigar dropped from Brunelle's lips and he was all action.

"The whole upper half of this house is a mass of flames," said Teven. "We've got to get these people out quick. Get busy, for God's sake! I'll have help here in a jiffy."

Brunelle kept his head cool. He touched an electric button. That button rang bells that tinkled wherever an usher or attendant was stationed. The ringing, just loud enough for the theatre employees, but not for the audience to hear, meant "Fire. Every man to his place." It was the fire drill that had been practiced, and now was needed in deadly earnest.

"You and what men you've got hold the doors. My place is inside," Brunelle said to Teven, and he ran into the main entrance. Just then Meehan and Shea, back from giving the alarm, entered the lobby. The three cops stepped inside the theatre and set their broad backs against the doors.

Brunelle walked swiftly but calmly around the side of the orchestra floor until he reached the first box on the lower tier. No one in the audience noticed him. The attention of the audience was all on the stage.

The house was so crowded that there was an elbow against every rib. Every seat was taken and people were standing in the rear of the house. On the stage Paul McAllister, who takes the part of Garrett Foster, the hero, was making love to Adelaide Keim who is Rose de la Noe in the play. E. L. Snader and Estelle Earle who are Capt. Miles Standish and Barbara Standish were watching the lovers from the porch of the Standish's cottage. Manager Brunelle stepped to the front of the box. At the same moment the asbestos curtain came down. The orchestra began to play "The Rose o' Plymouth Town."

"Ladies and gentlemen," said the manager, speaking in a voice that penetrated every corner of the theatre, but had no note of alarm in it, "there is a fire in the building next door. There is not the slightest cause for alarm so every man, woman and child must keep his seat. Must keep his seat, you understand! You will all get out safely and quickly."

At first no one in the theatre seemed to realize what was said. Nearly everybody stared stupidly at the little man in the box. The actors paused and moved to the footlights.

Then a woman in the balcony screamed. A small boy in the gallery yelled "Fire!" and tense nerves began to give way. In the rear of the orchestra floor a rush for the door began. In the front of the house no one moved.

At that instant the big doors swung open and Police Capt. McNally, at the head of fifteen policemen, appeared. The detail split, a third rushing down each aisle until they had reached the exits. McNally ran to the footlights and waved his stick, calling out in a voice like the roar of a bull:

"Keep your seats! If anybody in this house starts a stampede I'll knock his head off! The first man or woman that tries a rush for the door will be smashed with a club."

All over the house the captain's blunt warning was repeated by his men. The impatient panic was stamped out like a flash. People who had started frightfully from their seats sank back and watched the policemen.

Paul McAllister, the leading man, leaned over the footlights.

"There is no danger," said McAllister, "absolutely none. Show that you're made of the right kind of stuff, you people."

Quicker than it takes to tell it, the attendants had opened the exits and cleared the aisles. McNally's men had gone to the gallery and balcony, too, and the herding of the audience into the street began.

No clubs were needed for a single panic-stricken person. With scarcely any crowding or jostling, the crowd poured out, the police holding everybody in line, and in six minutes from the time that Policeman Teven had warned Manager Brunelle the house was as bare as a bone.

After the audience got into the street it was different. Many had lost hats, coats, shawls and other articles. Several women became hysterical, and fought with the policemen to get back into the theatre and recover a new spring hat, a box or a jacket.

Meantime the first engine companies were fighting the blaze desperately. Battalion Chief Callahan sprang up a fire escape and worked a hose himself until nearly exhausted by fatigue and overcome by smoke.

A third and fourth alarm brought additional help, and then the fire was quickly dropped out after it burned that half of the building not occupied by the theatre.

Fireman Edward Page was the only person injured. Page, like Callahan, fought the blaze from a fire escape. The heat

HEIR TO A MILLION BANKRUPT

J. CAMPBELL SMITH'S CHIEF CREDITOR HIS WIFE.

Files a Petition in Bankruptcy Admitting Debts to Jewelers, Furriers and Auto Repairers—Puts His Liabilities at \$80,000—Blames Sully Failure.

J. Campbell Smith, who inherited more than \$1,000,000 from his great-uncle, Augustus Smith, in January, 1897, and who has kept a city and town house since, filed a petition in bankruptcy yesterday.

The slump in cotton which brought about the failure of Daniel J. Sully and unfortunate dealings in Amalgamated Copper are said by Mr. Smith's friends to be the causes for his failure.

Mr. Smith began to show evidences of a falling income a little more than a month ago. His city home was at 20 West Sixty-ninth street. There he kept a car, servants, and there are only a couple of them left. Yesterday a moving van began to cart furniture from the house, which is said to belong to his wife and which is in the market. Mr. Smith bought the house three or four years ago for \$55,000.

Mr. Smith kept an elaborate stable, with several horses, a coachman and a footman and an automobile. He has done away with all these, it was said last night. At the Sixty-ninth street house it was said that Mr. Smith would move to-day to Orange N. J., for the summer, although his country home has been at Bay Shore, L. I.

Mr. Smith, who is about 36 years old, was a paper salesman when his grand-uncle died. Mr. Smith is a descendant of Augustus Smith, who was president of the William and Mary College in Virginia, and is remotely related to ex-Judge Roger A. Pryor. When Judge Pryor heard last night that Mr. Smith was a bankrupt, he said:

"I am surprised and distressed. If you had asked me this morning as to my opinion of Mr. Smith's financial standing, I should have said over \$1,000,000."

After his grand-uncle's death Mr. Smith became a partner in the firm of E. S. Ryder & Co., and two years later he joined the firm of Augustus J. Smith & Co., paper merchants at 113 Nassau street. It is said that he retired from the firm on Feb. 1, last, although at the office of the firm it was declared yesterday that he had not been a partner for a long time and there was nothing to be said about the cause of his bankruptcy.

Mr. Smith's liabilities are put at \$80,000. His assets consist of 3,150 shares of stock of the Chelsea Paper Manufacturing Company of no value, a quarter interest in two lots at Hastings, N. Y., a possible reversionary interest in the estate of Richard A. Smith, value unknown, and a remainder interest in one quarter of the residuary estate of John Campbell, value unknown. Mr. Smith's interest in these two estates is dependent on his own survivorship.

His debts are many and his creditors include jewelers, clothiers, furriers, hatters and dry goods dealers.

These jewelers are his creditors: Tiffany & Co., for \$1,627; G. H. Squire, \$3,285; Black, Starr & Frost, \$1,790; Theodore B. Starr, \$2,254, and several others. He owes to C. C. Shays & Co. he owes \$2,168 and to C. G. Gumbert's Sons \$245 for furs. For dry goods he owes \$2,051, divided among three firms. To four haberdashers he owes \$911, while he is in debt also for books, pictures, silverware, fashions, chinaware, coal, confectionery, plumbing, fruit and shoes. He also owes \$400 for the repair and storage of his automobile. He was a member of the Olympic Club at Bay Shore and he owes \$213 for dues.

Mr. Smith says in his bankruptcy petition that his largest creditor is Amy F. Smith, to whom he owes \$25,000 for borrowed money. Mr. Smith's wife was Amy F. Smith. They have three children.

Mr. Smith was interested in other enterprises apart from the paper business. He was treasurer of the Automatic Lubricator Company, president of the Roasted Oats Company and a director of the Stuyvesant Company, publishers.

NOT TO WED MISS WORTHINGTON.

The Engagement of John Brisbane Walker's Son Broken Off.

TAKETOWN, N. Y., May 6.—Mrs. Charles O. Worthington announced this afternoon that the engagement of her daughter, Miss Julia, to John C. Walker, a son of John Brisbane Walker, had been broken by mutual consent and that the invitations had been recalled. Miss Worthington and Mr. Walker had been engaged for about two years and were to have been married on May 21.

The invitations were sent out only a few days ago. Mrs. Worthington would not talk further on the subject, except to say that the engagement was broken on Wednesday. Justin Walker could not be seen, but one of his brothers acknowledged that the engagement was broken and referred for any other information to Mrs. Worthington.

Miss Worthington's troupe was all made and the young couple had rented a house in Sunnyside Park. Miss Worthington had selected her bridesmaids, and one is now on the ocean, having sailed a few days ago to arrive here in time for the wedding. The breaking off of the engagement came as a surprise. It was said in Irvington to-day that the main reason for Miss Worthington breaking the engagement was that of late Mr. Walker's disposition had displeased her, and as he did not change she broke the engagement rather than have an unhappy marriage.

Miss Worthington is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Worthington, and is 21 years old. She is popular in the younger society set and has taken a prominent part in important social functions. She is a fine golfer and an expert chauffeur.

NO BASEBALL FOR CO-EDS.

At Least, Not on U. of P. Campus, Where a Mixed Game Was Played Yesterday.

PHILADELPHIA, May 6.—University of Pennsylvania co-eds who want to play baseball must not do so on the college campus. This was the decision reached to-day by the university authorities, and the bursar notified the police to break up all such games.

It has been a custom for the students to hold daily baseball games on the campus, but to-day the first time the girls took to the field, they were told to stop.

McNally ran to the footlights and waved his stick, calling out in a voice like the roar of a bull:

"Keep your seats! If anybody in this house starts a stampede I'll knock his head off! The first man or woman that tries a rush for the door will be smashed with a club."

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WOMAN HELD FOR FORGERY.

Breach of Faith by City Official, Her Lawyer Says.

A young woman who said that she was Olive M. Garrett, but refused to give her address, was arrested last night by Detective Sergeant Peabody and Clarke. She was taken to Police Headquarters and later was locked up in the Mercer street station, where there is a prison for women.

The charge against the young woman is forgery, and she was arrested on a warrant issued by Magistrate Moss in the Tombs police court.

Justice Wyatt of Special Sessions accepted bail for the young woman late last night. The bail was given by her mother, Mrs. May A. Garrett, who said she lived in 26th street, The Bronx. According to the warrant the complainant against Miss Garrett is Walter H. Stearns of 238 Broadway.

John G. Snyder, a lawyer with offices at 258 Broadway, appeared for Miss Garrett at the station house when she was released. When questioned concerning the case he said:

"This is a matter that we hoped to keep from being made public. This girl is innocent of any wrongdoing, and her arrest is a breach of good faith on the part of a high official in this city."

CANNON'S TWO TRUNKS LOST.

Speaker Says His Vice-Presidential Boom Is in One of 'Em.

CHICAGO, May 6.—The Cannon Vice-Presidential boom and two of the Speaker's trunks are lost. "Uncle Joe" himself is authority for this statement.

Speaker Cannon, before leaving Chicago this afternoon for his home in Danville, discovered that his two trunks were gone. Search of the Auditorium baggage room, inquiries at the railroad station and the transfer office failed to uncover a clue as to their whereabouts. As he was hurrying away he was asked about the political situation.

"Not a word," answered the Speaker, with emphasis. Then he added: "I've lost my two trunks. That Vice-Presidential boom is in one of them."

Speaker Cannon indulged in a few adjectives, then smiled at the thought of the Vice-Presidential boom and proceeded on his way.

DANVILLE, May 6.—When Mr. Cannon arrived here the citizens turned out and gave him a rousing reception home.

11 KILLED IN TEXAS TORNADO.

Later Reports Expected to Double the Number—Live Stock Injured.

DALLAS, Tex., May 6.—The tornado in northwest Texas last night killed Mrs. Mary Wagley, her daughter, and Anna and George Anthony at Moran. A dozen are seriously injured. At Putnam one man was killed and one woman injured. A negro's cabin was swept into the Brazos river, five miles above the Texas and Pacific crossing, and three negro men were drowned. A work train was blown from the railroad tracks near Creson and two negro laborers were drowned. About twenty houses were wrecked at Moran and half a dozen at Putnam.

Hundreds of head of live stock are reported killed in Blackford and adjoining counties and crops are seriously injured by rain, wind and hail.

During the blinding storm near Phelps, two trains collided and Conductor Austin and Fireman Armstrong were killed. The telegraph service is still badly crippled and reports are incomplete, but it is believed that the lives lost in isolated places will swell the total to twenty.

A report received this afternoon says that a cyclone near Cordell, Okla., just north of the Texas line, has wrecked much property and that two lives were lost.

Railroad property has suffered heavily in the northwestern Texas storm area. Wesley Shurlock, 14 years old, was killed at Sunset, in Wise county.

COLORADO FOR ROOSEVELT.

Wolcott Rules and the National Administration Is Endorsed.

DENVER, May 6.—As the result of recent conferences between the President and ex-Senator Wolcott, the Republican State convention to-day was both harmonious and enthusiastic. Mr. Wolcott presided, the platform was adopted and elected by unanimous vote. The proceedings indicated the purpose of the party leaders to preserve harmony until the presidential campaign is ended.

The platform endorses the President and praises Gov. Peabody for his course during the labor troubles. It approves the Panama Canal program and favors continuation of the protective policy. The delegates were instructed to vote for Roosevelt at Chicago, first, last and all the time. They are:

E. O. Wolcott, chairman; Gov. J. H. Peabody, Judge N. W. Dixon, Thomas F. Walsh, A. M. Steverson and S. S. Downer, all at large; First district, F. M. Miner, John W. Burke and the company; Second district, C. C. Dawson. None of the prominent leaders of the anti-Wolcott faction is on the list.

LIMIT ON LOSS BY THEFT.

Maurice Wormer Gets But \$250 for the Theft of His \$5,000 Ring.

Maurice Wormer, the banker, who lives at 14 East Sixty-second street, took out a \$5,000 burglary insurance policy in the General Accident Assurance Corporation, Limited, on Dec. 2, 1902, to run for one year. On Feb. 6, 1903, a \$5,000 scarf pin was stolen from his house and he put in a claim under his policy. There were two clauses in the policy, one limiting the liability on jewelry to \$1,000, and another making \$250 the total liability on any one piece of jewelry.

Mr. Wormer's lawyers contended that the \$1,000 clause could be so read as to make the company liable to that extent on a single piece of jewelry, regardless of the second clause. The company denied this and the controversy was submitted on an agreed statement of facts to the Appellate Division. That court handed down a unanimous opinion yesterday upholding the company's contention and granting Mr. Wormer judgment for \$250 with costs and interest.

A New Kind of Snake Story.

SUFFOLK, Va., May 6.—A vouched for story from Gates county, N. C., says a blacksnake nearly ten feet long swallowed fourteen eggs, which it took from under a setting hen. The snake was killed, the eggs were taken out and the hen and in due time each egg hatched.

SEE THE WORLD'S FAIR EARLY.

The Pennsylvania Railroad's first great excursion May 10 presents an opportunity to see the fair at the earliest and to see the city of its greatest. Only \$2.00 for the round trip from New York to Philadelphia.

BLISS READY TO BE CHAIRMAN

BUT A STOUT YOUNG REPUBLICAN MUST TURN IN TO HELP.

Vice-Chairman Needed for the Eastern Headquarters and Timothy L. Woodruff Thought to Be the Man to Fill the Bill—Payne to Run the Western End.

Senator Platt's statement, printed yesterday morning, that Cornelius N. Bliss would be chairman of the Republican national committee, was considered by some Republicans to mean that Senator Platt was opposed to Mr. Bliss's selection to this important post. Senator Platt said yesterday that such a construction was a misinterpretation of his remarks.

It was learned from indisputable authority that President Roosevelt gave the decision to Mr. Bliss to take the place, and that Mr. Bliss, always ready to help the Republican cause, has not demurred to the President's request in this matter. But Mr. Bliss, it was added, would like to be assured, if he takes the place, that he is to have sturdy and valuable assistance. Mr. Bliss, it was asserted, believes that the office of Republican national chairman is becoming more and more important each campaign.

It was said that if Mr. Bliss is finally made Republican national chairman, Postmaster-General Henry C. Payne is to resign his place in the Cabinet and is to have charge of Republican campaign headquarters in Chicago. If this programme concerning the campaign is carried out, George B. Cortelyou, at present Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, will be made Postmaster-General, and James R. Garfield, at present Commissioner of the Bureau of Corporations in the Department, will be made Secretary of the Department.

The present hitch in the Republican national chairmanship, it is understood, grows out of the selection of a vice-chairman who is to be Mr. Bliss's right hand man in the management of the New York or Eastern headquarters of the national committee. Mr. Bliss is said not to be in very robust health, yet he has not any organic trouble and could readily go through a campaign. But Mr. Bliss's friends went on to declare yesterday that he ought to have a young Republican at his elbow who could take up the greater part of the work, and the report was to the effect that eminent Republicans would like to have Timothy L. Woodruff accept this place, which would be known as that of vice-chairman of the Eastern headquarters.

Another report was to the effect that Mr. Woodruff may be made Republican national committee chairman for the State, to succeed Mr. Sheldon. Yet Gov. Odell has all along, it was understood, desired the election of William C. Warren of Buffalo.

It was evident, from all that could be learned last night, that there is no friction over the selection of Mr. Bliss to be Republican national chairman, but that there must be some sort of an arrangement which will give him the assistance he believes to be necessary. While there would not be very much trouble over the selection of a vice-chairman for the Western headquarters, it was the opinion that if it was determined to make Mr. Woodruff vice-chairman of the Eastern headquarters, Gov. Odell and his friends might enter objections.

FAIRBANKS HERE, SILENT.

Except to Say That He Knows of No Plan to Nominate Him With Roosevelt.

Senator Fairbanks was here yesterday. The Senator was seen last night at the Waldorf-Astoria, where he is staying, but he refused to talk politics.

When Senator Platt got back from Washington on Thursday he intimated that Senator Fairbanks might be induced to accept the Republican nomination for Vice-President. Mr. Fairbanks himself had not yet said whether he would or not.

He did say that he knew nothing about any plan to nominate him for the Vice-Presidency, and added that he was here on personal business and would not reply to any questions relating to politics.

RESCUED WOMAN AND CHILD.

Their House Fell Into Mine Cave-In—Taken Out Through the Roof.

HAMILTON, Pa., May 6.—After remaining for an hour in momentary danger of death Mrs. Albert Gusher and her two-year-old daughter were extricated from a mine cave-in by neighbors to-day.

The Gushers live in Highland, a mining town a short distance from here and adjacent to the Marikie collieries. This afternoon the rear of the Gusher house dropped fifteen feet into a mine hole.

The rescue was a narrow one, answered by the whole town and a rescue party was organized. Although the earth was still sinking, half a dozen men descended and cutting a hole through the roof of the house, extricated the woman and her child.

CHARGES THAT SON IS INSANE.

Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews Tries to Check His Boy's Sad Career.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 6.—A complaint alleging insanity was filed to-day before the Lancaster County Insanity Commission by E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the Nebraska University, against his son, Guy A., 30 years old. It is said that the desire of the young man to commit petty thefts has become a mania.

It was learned to-day that he has been in hiding part of the time in an obscure hotel in the city. Fearing that harm might come to the young man, his father reluctantly filed the insanity complaint. The Sheriff to-night had not yet been able to serve his warrant.

HARVARD WINS DEBATE WITH PRINCETON.

CAMBRIDGE, May 6.—Harvard won the debate with Princeton to-night in Sander's Theatre, scoring her tenth victory in twelve years. The question discussed was "Resolved, That laws be passed compelling the management of a business undertaking which secure control of an industry to sell its product at reasonable rates." Harvard upheld the negative.

Winston Churchill a Candidate.

NASHUA, N. H., May 6.—The delegates from New Hampshire to the Republican national convention have agreed upon, with the exception of those of the Second district, which includes this city, Winston Churchill, the author, is one of the candidates for the place. The convention will be held May 16.

A Handsome Magazine in Colors.

More Italians in N. Y. than Venice. Read what mental workers and Italian American writers say. "Chicago," No. 10, 2d St. N. Y.—Ad.

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World Map Paces to Texas Legislators.

CURRO, Tex., May 6.—J. D. Lawright, of this place, a stockholder of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad Company, to-day filed injunction proceedings in the District Court here to enjoin that company from issuing free passes to members of the Texas Legislature, district judges and other public officers. He alleges in his suit that if the road did not give free passes its net earnings would show a material increase.

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JAP ARMY LANDS.

Port Arthur Cut Off From the Rear—Harbor Blocked.

St. PAUL, May 6.—President James J. Hill of the Great Northern Railroad will supplement his many gifts to the Roman Catholic Church by a donation of \$1,500,000, toward the erection of the new \$3,000,000 Cathedral in which two of the wealthiest of St. Paul parishes will join. This announcement was made to-day by members of the clergy. The remaining \$1,500,000 will be subscribed by wealthy citizens.

The Cathedral will be the most costly edifice in the West and will crown a height on St. Anthony Hill in the center of the aristocratic residence district. It will be only a few hundred yards from President Hill's immense palace. Its construction will begin this summer.

Mrs. James J. Hill's gift a few years ago enabled the Catholic Church to build the \$750,000 seminary for students for the priesthood at Groveland Park.

BATTLE WITH TIBETANS.

British Repulse an Attack, Inflicting Heavy Loss.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.

LONDON, May 7.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Simla says that 600 Tibetans attacked the British mission at Gyantse at dawn on Thursday. They were repulsed with heavy loss and fled. The British had two wounded.

MISS GOULD THANKS GEN. BELL.

For Not Taking Champagne at Gov. Peabody's Reception.

DENVER, May 6.—Gen. Sherman Bell, of the Governor's staff, who escorted Miss Helen M. Gould at the reception given by Gov. Peabody at St. Louis last Monday, has received a letter from Miss Gould, in which she says:

"I cannot refrain from sending you a few lines to tell you what a comfort it was to me last night that you did not take champagne, for one feels rather off in refusing when almost every one takes it. And I am also sincerely glad that this is your usual custom and was not simply an act of courtesy to a lady."

ALICE ROOSEVELT'S CHOICE.

Selects Miss Noone to Represent Her as Queen of the May in Elwood.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 6.—Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the President, is to be portrayed as a May queen at the celebration of a perennial school in Elwood, and some of the pupils recently wrote to her submitting a list of names of young women and their photographs, asking her to select one of them as her representative.

A reply to the letter was received to-day, and Miss Roosevelt's photograph accompanied it. She indicated that she was much pleased with the appearance of Miss Mary Noone, and said she would make a charming May queen. Miss Noone was promptly accepted by the school and will appear at the exercises as the representative of the President's daughter.

Miss Roosevelt's photograph will be framed and placed in the school room as a souvenir of the occasion.

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